

Appln. No. 09/753,352

Amendment dated DATE OF MAILING TO PTO

Reply to Office Action mailed February 24, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1 ~~1. (Currently Amended) A system for organizing one or more~~  
 2 ~~elongated objects, each elongated object having a length and a~~  
 3 ~~width, the length exceeding the width, comprising:~~  
 4 ~~a first fastener adapted to extend for a distance along the~~  
 5 ~~length of at least a first one of the elongated objects and capable of~~  
 6 ~~coupling the first one of the elongated objects to a second one of~~  
 7 ~~the elongated objects or to another object; and~~  
 8 ~~a second fastener adapted to extend for a distance along the~~  
 9 ~~length of at least the first one of the elongated objects and capable~~  
 10 ~~of coupling the first one of the elongated objects to a third one of~~  
 11 ~~the elongated objects or to another object;~~  
 12 ~~wherein the first fastener and the second fastener have~~  
 13 ~~substantially complementary shapes.~~

1 ~~2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the first fastener~~  
 2 ~~is adapted to extend along substantially all of the length of at least~~  
 3 ~~the first one of the elongated objects.~~

1 ~~3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the first fastener~~  
 2 ~~is reusable.~~

1 ~~4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the first fastener~~  
 2 ~~comprises at least one male component integrated with the first one~~  
 3 ~~of the elongated objects.~~

1 ~~5. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the first fastener~~  
 2 ~~comprises at least one raised bead.~~

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1 ~~6.~~ (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~4~~, wherein the  
2 ~~first second~~ fastener comprises at least one female component  
3 integrated with the first one of the elongated objects.

1 ~~7.~~ (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6, wherein the  
2 ~~first second~~ fastener comprises at least one indented channel  
3 defined in the first one of the elongated objects.

1 ~~8.~~ (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the  
2 first fastener comprises ~~an adhesive substance~~ a longitudinally-  
3 extending void of material formed in the first elongated object and  
4 the second fastener comprises a longitudinally-extending protrusion  
5 of material from the first elongated object.

Switch  
multiple  
connectors  
each piece  
having male  
+ female  
components  
as described  
above

1 9. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 1,~~ for organizing  
2 one or more elongated objects, each elongated object having a  
3 length and a width, the length exceeding the width, comprising:  
4 a first fastener adapted to extend for a distance along the  
5 length of at least a first one of the elongated objects and capable of  
6 coupling the first one of the elongated objects to a second one of  
7 the elongated objects or to another object;

8 wherein the first fastener comprises a wrap adapted to be  
9 applied around the first one of the elongated objects, the wrap  
10 comprising an outer surface facing away from the first one of the  
11 elongated objects and an inner surface facing towards the first one  
12 of the elongated objects.

1 10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein a channel is  
2 defined in the inner surface of the wrap for receiving the first one  
3 of the elongated objects.

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1      11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the first one of  
2      the elongated objects is removable from the wrap.

1      12. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein a cut extending  
2      lengthwise along the wrap is defined in the wrap, the cut extending  
3      from the outer surface of the wrap to the inner surface of the wrap.

1      13. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein at least one  
2      channel is defined in the outer surface of the wrap for receiving the  
3      second one of the elongated objects.

1      14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further  
2      comprising a ~~second~~ <sup>(5)</sup> third fastener adapted to extend for a distance  
3      along the length of at least the second one of the elongated objects <sup>(4)</sup>  
4      and capable of coupling the second one of the elongated objects to  
5      the first one of the elongated objects, wherein the first fastener and  
6      the ~~second~~ third fastener have complementary shapes and are  
7      capable of mating together to couple the first one of the elongated  
8      objects and the second one of the elongated objects together.

1      15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the  
2      first fastener comprises at least one male component integrated with  
3      the first one of the elongated objects, and the ~~second~~ third fastener  
4      comprises at least one female component integrated with the second  
5      one of the elongated objects.

1      16. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a  
2      converter adapted for attachment to the first fastener.

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1        17. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 16, for~~  
2        organizing one or more elongated objects, each elongated object  
3        having a length and a width, the length exceeding the width,  
4        comprising:  
5                a first fastener adapted to extend for a distance along the  
6        length of at least a first one of the elongated objects and capable of  
7        coupling the first one of the elongated objects to a second one of  
8        the elongated objects or to another object; and  
9                a converter adapted for attachment to the first fastener;  
10        wherein the converter comprises a plurality of female  
11        components, and wherein at least one female component is adapted  
12        for attachment to the first fastener.

1        18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the converter  
2        comprises a plurality of indented channels, and wherein at least one  
3        indented channel is adapted for attachment to the first fastener.

1        19. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the converter  
2        comprises a plurality of male components, and wherein at least one  
3        male component is adapted for attachment to the first fastener.

1        20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the converter  
2        comprises a plurality of raised beads, and wherein at least one  
3        raised bead is adapted for attachment to the first fastener.

1        21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16, wherein the  
2        converter comprises a hanger having a ~~second~~ third fastener adapted  
3        for attachment to the first fastener.

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Please add the following claims:

1        ~~22.~~ (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the first and second  
2 fasteners are integrated with the first one of the elongated objects,  
3 and additionally comprising a third fastener <sup>U-shaped</sup> integrated with the first  
4 one of the elongated objects, the first fastener and the third fastener  
5 having substantially similar shapes.

1        ~~23.~~ (New) The system of claim 22 additionally comprising a  
2 fourth fastener <sup>5</sup> integrated with the first one of the elongated  
3 objects, the second fastener and the fourth fastener having  
4 substantially similar shapes.

*Amix*  
1        ~~24.~~ (New) The system of claim 23 wherein the first and third  
2 fasteners are at substantially diametrically opposite locations on the  
3 first one of the elongated objects and the second and fourth  
4 fasteners are at substantially diametrically opposite locations on the  
5 first one of the elongated objects.

1        ~~25.~~ (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the first one of the  
2 elongated objects has a transverse cross section with a polygonal  
3 perimeter shape, <sup>rectangle</sup> each of the fasteners being located on a  
4 substantially planar face of the first one of the elongated objects.

1        ~~26.~~ (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the first fastener  
2 and the second fastener are integrated with the first one of the  
3 elongated objects at substantially opposite locations on the first one  
4 of the elongated objects.

1        27. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the first fastener  
2 comprises a raised bead and the second fastener comprises an  
3 indented channel, and each of the first and second fasteners has a  
4 plurality of fingers formed thereon.

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*Revised*

1       (28) (New) A system for organizing one or more elongated  
2 objects, comprising:  
3       a first elongated object having a length, the first elongated  
4 object comprising at least one conductor and a sheath surrounding  
5 the at least one conductor;  
6       a first fastener component formed on the sheath and extending  
7 for a distance along the length of the first elongated object; and  
8       a second fastener component formed on the sheath and  
9 extending for a distance along the length of the first elongated  
10 object.

1       (29) (New) The system of claim 28 wherein the first fastener  
2 component and the second fastener component have substantially  
3 complementary shapes.

1       (30) (New) The system of claim 28 wherein the first fastener  
2 component is a male component and the second fastener component  
3 is a female component.

1       (31) (New) The system of claim 28 wherein the first fastener  
2 component and the second fastener component are at substantially  
3 diametrically opposite locations on the first elongated object.

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1           32. (New) The system of claim 28 additionally comprising a  
2 third fastener component formed on the sheath at a diametrically  
3 opposite location from the first fastener component on the first  
4 elongated object, a fourth fastener component formed on the sheath  
5 at a diametrically opposite location from the second fastener  
6 component on the first elongated object, the first and third fastener  
7 components each having a substantially complementary shape to a  
8 shape of each of the second and fourth fastener components, each of  
9 the first and third fastener components comprising a raised bead and  
10 each of the second and fourth fastener components comprising an  
11 indented channel; and  
12           wherein the at least one conductor is substantially centrally  
13 located in the first elongated object and the sheath comprises an  
14 insulating material.